

Chlamydia Fact Sheet

Chlamydia, caused by bacterium, *Chlamydia trachomatis*, is the most commonly reported sexually transmitted disease in the United States.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Individuals are commonly asymptomatic (without symptoms). If symptoms occur, they usually appear 1 to 3 weeks after exposure.

Symptoms in women include:

- Abnormal vaginal discharge
- Burning sensation when urinating
- Lower abdominal pain
- Low back pain
- Nausea and/or fever
- Pain during intercourse
- Bleeding between menstrual periods
- Anal irritation

Symptoms in men include:

- Discharge from penis
- Burning sensation when urinating
- Burning or itching around opening of penis
- Anal irritation

TRANSMISSION

Chlamydia infections are transmitted through:

- Vaginal, anal, or oral sex
- Infected mother to newborn during vaginal childbirth

COMPLICATIONS/CONSEQUENCES

If untreated chlamydial infections may result in:

- Pelvic Inflammatory Disease
- Infertility
- Ectopic (tubal) pregnancy
- Chronic pelvic pain
- Increased risk for acquiring HIV infection

If untreated in pregnancy, chlamydia can lead to:

- Premature Delivery
- Low birth weight in newborns
- Severe eye (conjunctivitis) and respiratory tract infections (pneumonia) in newborns

TREATMENT

Treatment should include:

- Medication prescribed by a health care provider (commonly azithromycin or doxycycline)
- Appropriate treatment of partner

PREVENTION

- Abstain from sexual contact
- Early treatment of STDs
- Appropriate use of latex condoms consistently and correctly during vaginal, anal, and oral sex on a penis
- Appropriate use of latex barrier for oral sex on a vagina or anus

Recommendations for prohibiting the spread of infection:

- Avoidance of sexual contact with a partner until treatment is completed
- Take all medications prescribed even if you stop having symptoms
- Discontinue sexual contact if signs or symptoms occur
- Screening test during pregnancy
- Annual screening for all sexually active women 25 years of age and younger
- Notify all recent sex partners if infected

Contact Information:

For more information pertaining to Florida clinical services, sites, and treatment recommendations please visit us on the web at http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/std/clinical/clinical.html or email us at: HSD_STD@doh.state.fl.us.

National STD Hotline

1-800-227-8922 (24 hrs, 7 days a week)

Spanish

1-800-344-7432 (8am-2pm EST, 7 days a week)

Hearing Impaired

1-800-243-7889 (10am-10pm EST, Mon.-Fri.)